

May 1, 2006

Dear Email Newsletter Subscribers:

Tomorrow evening the City Council will host one of the most important meetings in many months: a town meeting on the draft Management Plan for the 12.5 acres on the City's southern boundary. This draft Plan has been nearly four years in the making but this is the first time the public will have seen anything about the document. While these comments represent my own opinions and not necessarily those of other Councilmembers, I have been closely involved with this process.

Four groups, the City of Trinidad, California Coastal Conservancy, Yurok Tribe, and the Tsurai Ancestral Society designated representatives to meet to develop this plan. The Conservancy granted the Yurok Tribe thousands of dollars to put it together. Mayor Chi-Wei Lin and I represent the City on the Management Team.

Doors open tomorrow at 6:30pm in Town Hall so residents can view maps and other materials. The meeting begins at 7:00pm and after an introduction by Mayor Lin, the Coastal Conservancy representative, Su Corbaley will host the discussion. The Conservancy holds an easement on the entire property to provide for public access and protect Native American resources.

Some of the issues involved are:

1. How to protect and preserve the Tsurai Indian village site which is part of the 12.5 acres.
2. How to manage vegetation to protect steep slopes, deal with invasive non-native plants, restore coastal views of residents living around the 12.5 acres, and allow areas to dry.
3. How to manage public access to allow access to beaches but to prevent trespassing on the village site.

The overarching issue, in my opinion, is whether and how the City and Indian groups can work together to cooperatively manage the property. Although the property belong to the City, any management plan must include the Yurok Tribe, which has important cultural ties to the area. How the two groups will work together is one of the most important process to be worked out.

This meeting is one of the most important town meetings we have held. At stake is the future of the entire southern boundary of the City. Who will own it, how it will be managed, what will happen to public access, how will Indian resources be protected - these are all issues that will affect not only residents of Trinidad but residents of the region. Also, how we approach management will shape relations between the City and Indian groups for years to come. The opportunity for positive cooperative action is there, but will the groups be able to make the most of the opportunity?

Some information about the meeting and materials is on the City's website: [www.trinidad.ca.gov](http://www.trinidad.ca.gov). I urge all residents to attend and to participate in the management plan process. There are decisions at stake that could affect Trinidad forever.

Sincerely,

Dean Heyenga  
City Councilmember  
677-0340  
[heyenga@humboldt1.com](mailto:heyenga@humboldt1.com)